

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 6, the title and the drawings are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in the light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the drawings, asserting that certain claim features, such as "pattern" and "units" recited in claims 1 and 4-7 are not illustrated in the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Fig. 9 of the specification shows three different units 101a, 102a and 103a. Fig. 4 shows four pixels 100a in a unit. The contact holes 5d in each of the four pixels shown in Fig. 4 are located at a different position among the four pixels 100a. In Fig. 9, the pixels 100a are arranged in the units 101a, 102a and 103a differently. Thus, the pattern of the contact hole is different in different units 101a, 102a and 103a.

In view of the above, the features recited in the claims, such as the "units," are shown in the figures. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings regarding the features recited in the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also objects to the drawings, asserting that Fig. 18 should be designated by a legend to indicate that only that which is old is illustrated. Fig. 18 is amended to be labeled as "related art." Fig. 17 is also amended to be labeled as "related art." Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the figures with respect to Fig. 18 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the title. The title is amended, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 3 are amended for better clarity. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicants' prior art (APA) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0070454 to Yasukawa ("Yasukawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that the APA does not disclose or suggest the feature that a pattern of contact hole formation position is different in different units, but asserts that Yasukawa discloses this feature. However, the APA and Yasukawa do not disclose or suggest that each of the plurality of pixels has a contact hole formation-position, the plurality of pixels containing a first array of pixels and a second array of pixels, the first and second array of pixels having identical dimensions, a pattern of contact hole formation-position in the first array of pixels being different from a pattern of contact hole formation-position in the second array of pixels, as recited in claims 1, 4 and 6.

As acknowledged in the Office Action, the APA does not disclose or suggest a pattern of contact hole formation position being different in different units. Therefore, the APA does not disclose or suggest that each of the plurality of pixels has a contact hole formation-position, the plurality of pixels containing a first array of pixels and a second array of pixels, the first and second array of pixels having identical dimensions, a pattern of contact hole formation-position in the first array of pixels being different from a pattern of contact hole formation-position in the second array of pixels, as recited in claims 1, 4 and 6.

Yasukawa discloses a plurality of transparent pixel electrodes 9a in the form of matrix disposed within a pixel portion on an element substrate of a liquid crystal device, in which the pixel electrode 9a is electrically connected through a contact hole 8 to a drain region of a semiconductor layer 1a. See Figs. 7 and 8, paragraphs [0217] and [0221]. Yasukawa does

not disclose or suggest a pattern of contact hole formation-position being different in different units. Therefore, Yasukawa does not disclose or suggest that each of the plurality of pixels has a contact hole formation-position, the plurality of pixels containing a first array of pixels and a second array of pixels, the first and second array of pixels having identical dimensions, a pattern of contact hole formation-position in the first array of pixels being different from a pattern of contact hole formation-position in the second array of pixels, as recited in claims 1, 4 and 6. Hence, Yasukawa does not supply the subject matter lacking in the APA.

For at least the above reasons, the combination of the APA and Yasukawa does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 4 and 6, and claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-9 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, the non-elected claims 10-16 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 4 and 6, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, rejoinder of claims 10-16 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GL/rle

Attachments:
Replacement Sheets

Date: August 5, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 17 and 18 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 17 and 18.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets